

WASHINGTON NEWS GOSSIP

By CHARLES BROOKS SMITH.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 15.—Senator Davis Elkins today gave to the press a statement of his views on the League of Nations. It is the first since he signed the so-called "round-robin" in which the views of 39 Senators were set forth briefly, but clearly. That was given out at a time when the Senate had not received the completed document.

Senator Elkins says in his statement issued today:

The League of Nations as presented to the Senate calls for a change of policy on the part of the United States which it has adhered to strictly and with success since its foundation. We have, following the wise counsel of Washington and the fathers of the Republic, kept clear of entangling alliances with all foreign governments. The proposition now is very plainly that we abandon that policy and as an inevitable result of that abandonment enter at once into partnership and alliance with the politics, intrigue, wars and revolutions, and all the ferment of racial discord and European ambitions and selfishness with which we have wisely not meddled since we have been a nation. Under this policy we have grown in greatness and independence, and by reason of it have been able to wield an influence, and enact a righteous part in world affairs, that we could not have had had we entangled in such a league or alliance as is now proposed.

If we are to depart from this life-long policy, we must do it within the limits of our constitutional powers, taking every precaution to safeguard and protect our government and its institutions as established under our constitution. In a number of respects, most vital and all-important to us, the covenant as presented violates that in a most astonishing extent. If we are to enter upon this new policy, this anti-Washington and anti-American policy of forming entangling alliances with each and every foreign government that desires our partnership, then these several provisions violate of our Constitution and our country's domestic peace and safety, must be eliminated, amended, or rendered inoperative by wise and sufficient reservations to insure the greatest measure of safety. No precautionary measure should be neglected if we are to do this unprecedented thing.

I have little heart in the success of the adventure we are asked to embark this Nation on. It is not the sort of a league that the people envisioned nor political parties put into their platforms. It is a most wild and visionary experiment that is proposed in which ours is to be the performance of the greater part with the least authority and freedom of action given us in which to do it. We are asked to surrender a measure of our national sovereignty to an international or super-government. To state it more understandingly to the average American citizen, we are invited into an international corporation in which we are allotted a small per cent. of the stock and given a single member upon the board of directors. We are expected to supply, in return for this, the bulk of the capital for its operation; a capital that is represented by not only money and its equivalent in supplies and credit, but in armies and in ships in all parts of the world. Is there any business man possessed of large capital who would, for a second, listen to any such absurd proposition as that?

We are to underwrite the peace of the world, and we are told that the

world is looking hopefully to us to do this thing. Is there any wonder that it is? Do you blame the world for looking hopefully to us, prayerfully and tearfully, to do this thing? Particularly those parts of the world, those governments, which, so far as the terms of the peace treaty are concerned, have profited much, and have, so far as that document discloses, sacrificed little, if anything at all, to that high and vague idealism of which we hear so much and about which we know so very little.

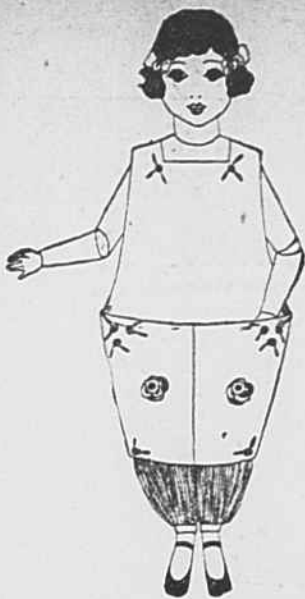
We are told that the people want the scheme approved and adopted by the Senate without let or hindrance, and we are told that the soldiers who gave their lives gave it for this precious document of un-Americanism and of internationalism, and the soldiers who survived the hell of battles are as eager for it. I most emphatically deny that this is true, and I am unhesitatingly asserting that it is just the reverse. I was a soldier in this great war, and a soldier in the war with Spain. I think that I know the soldier, and I feel that I am as competent to speak for him as those who were at no time his comrades in arms. We talked this thing over in France, in Belgium and camp. There was no diluted Americanism in that talk. It was straight-from-the-shoulder mericanism; a nationalism without alloy. They wanted no tangled up alliances with any European government whatsoever. They wanted to "finish the job" and get home, and keep out of any European mess, but ready and prepared to "go in" if, as Germany did, any nation challenged our rights and our liberties. That was the soldier sentiment in Europe when I embarked for home, and that is the soldier sentiment I have found existed here since I returned. As to the civilian public at large, I can speak for only that part of it which resides within the state of West Virginia. I can do this without any hesitation whatsoever. The great majority of the people of the state I have the honor to represent in the United States Senate, are unquestionably and unalterably opposed to the covenant of the League of Nations as finally brought home by the President and presented to the Senate.

As it is now, or as it may be, this is not the kind of a League of Nations that the American people had hoped for and expected. The more clearly the issue is understood by them, the more apparent this will become. The price that they are asked to pay is too great for the uncertain peace and protection that the framers of the covenant, more than the covenant itself, promise. We should try again. Try to get a league of some other kind that will more certainly guarantee world peace; assuredly one that will not compel us to surrender any of our sovereignty, our nationalism, our sacred liberties and institutions. The present scheme, in my judgment, lets us in for endless years of trouble, warfare in all parts of the world, material losses beyond computation and, in the end, assures us the enmity and jealousy of the world.

During the French Revolution 18,603 persons were guillotined by sentence of the revolutionary tribunal, of whom 13,623 were of plebeian origin.

The cotton handkerchiefs supplied to French soldiers have printed upon them a number of precepts to be observed on the march and during a campaign.

DOLL'S GARDEN DRESS



This is doll's farmeret dress with its white linen apron and embroidered roses, and its separate bloomers of blue chambray.

LAUREL POINT

James Smallwood wife and sons Russell and Donzell of Fairmont were visiting relatives here recently.

Oren Jones and wife are visiting relatives at Athens, Ohio.

J. R. Hall has returned from Youngs town and reports Mrs. Hall doing nicely.

Ben Wilson and Gyle Snider spent one day last week at Hildebrand fishing in the Monongahela river but did not have extra luck.

Virgil Jones and wife are spending some days at the home of Oren Jones. The Baptist church at Zoar gave a festival on the evening of July 12, proceeds for repair work for church property.

T. L. Cole and family have returned from a visit at Mt. Morris. The W. C. T. U. of this place held a business meeting at the home of Mrs. S. J. Stevens on the evening of the 9th to make arrangements for a miscellaneous sale in the near future. Dana Snider is tenting at Hildebrand and working for the Delmar Coal Co.

Dana Amett and family of Rivesville were guests of W. A. Fisher the 13th. Harvey Stevens of Westover was calling on his mother here last week. Hugh Treckett and wife of Georgetown spent Sunday here.

Melville Pratt and wife and children and Mrs. Thomas Musgrove of Hagans spent Sunday with Fielden Henry.

It is related of Thiers, the celebrated French statesman, who died 40 years ago, that as long as there was a German soldier on French soil he always used note paper with a deep black border.

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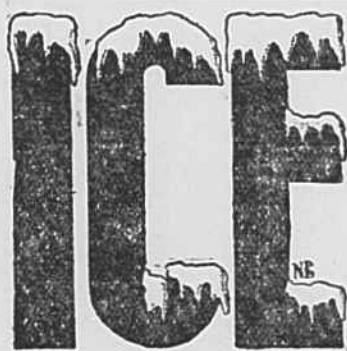
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